

Autism Information and Resource Folder

The Autism Information and Resource Folder is a resource for Support Coordinators to use when visiting with families with loved ones on the autism spectrum. The components of the folder are intended to provide immediate discussion catalysts as discussions occur around building a plan to support an individual and family. This folder is not intended to be all inclusive, and it is important to note that additional resources specific to areas such as transition and employment, self-directed supports, challenging behaviors, housing, etc. may be explored with the lead roles in those areas at the Regional Office.

Below are the recommended components to the Autism Information and Resource folders with information about where brochures may be located/ordered and how they might be helpful to families. Assembling the folder will not be difficult if the component parts are located in a central area where information intended for families is kept. Assembling the folders would be a good activity for volunteer workers or students interested in community service.

- **Missouri Family To Family Pocket Folder (formerly MODDRC pocket folder)**

Q: What is it?

A: A glossy pocket folder with MODDRC in the lower right. Inside the folder is a wealth of resource information and contacts.

Q: Where do I get them?

A: Contact the Family Support Coordinator at the Regional Office.

Q: What do I do with it?

A: Put the other components of the folder in it and be sure to point out the helpful resource information on the inside and back cover.

- **Autism Project Map**

Q: What is it?

A: A map of Missouri with counties color-coded, identifying each regional Autism Project with designations of the funding allocated, the Project's business model, and, where applicable, who the providers are.

Q: Where do I get it?

A: Download the Autism Project Map at <http://dmh.mo.gov/slro/documents/KitProjectMap21.9.14.pdf>

Q: What do I do with it?

A: Use it as a visual, pointing out the county of residence, the funding allocated to that Autism Project and the business model attached.

- **Autism Project Parent Information sheet**

Q: What is it?

A: A document that describes Missouri's Autism Projects very generally and has more detailed regional information as well as criteria for eligibility and disenrollment.

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Q: Where do I get it?

A: Download the Parent Information sheet at
<http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/autism/EMAPFamilyInfo.pdf>

- **Autism Project Parent Information sheet cont'd**

Q: What do I do with it?

A: Families may wish to become connected to the Autism Project in their area in order to gain access to services otherwise unavailable to them.

- **“Help for Your Child with Autism” brochure**

Q: What is it?

A: A brochure with region-specific resources from medical to educational to advocacy. The resources listed are intended to represent the same geographic region as the Autism Project Map with the exception of the listings Missouri’s Autism Centers which reflect the entire state.

Q: Where do I get it?

A: A quantity of printed brochures has been distributed to the Autism Navigators. Please contact the Autism Navigator connected to the Regional Office to request brochures. The brochure may also be downloaded and printed at
<http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/autism/EastMOREsourceBrochure.pdf>
There the links will be labeled as a specific region’s Resource Brochure.

Q: What do I do with it?

A: If the family would like to see if their child is eligible for early childhood special education services, relevant phone numbers are included in the brochure. If families are struggling with the school, contact information is included for resources that may assist them. The utility of this brochure is dependent on the concerns and needs of the family.

- **IAN brochure**

Q: What is it?

A: A brochure that invites families to explore the IAN website and enroll in research studies. This organization is affiliated with Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and offers core, credible information on a wide variety of topics commonly cited as top concerns of individuals with ASDs and their families.

Q: Where do I get it?

A: Brochures may be ordered at
http://www.iancommunity.org/cs/about_ian/spread_the_word_about_ian_brochure_order_form

Q: What do I do with it?

A: If the family has internet connectivity, bringing it up on the computer would be an excellent way to engage them in topics that may affect them. Click on the Community link to find great information about topics such as bullying, aggression, wandering, etc. If families do not have internet connectivity, the local library should be able to offer computer access or perhaps other entities are available to assist with computer access when it is convenient to the family.

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- **Service Description/Directory/Services Reference Guide for your region**

Q: What is it?

A: A document created to reflect service options in your area.

Q: Where do I get it?

A: Download the Service Description/Directory/Services Reference Guide at http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/autism/EMAPServicesRevised_001.pdf

Q: What do I do with it?

A: Discuss the service descriptions with the family. In the east and west, the services listed are somewhat generic in nature, permitting flexibility in choosing a more specific service and provider. In the Central, Southeast, and Southwest, more detailed descriptions of the services offered by particular providers are listed and families may choose only among those identified in the directory.

- **Sharing Our Strengths Peer Support Rack Card**

Q: What is it?

A: A card that invites families to connect with a peer mentor, someone in the state of Missouri who has experience with developmental disabilities and who has agreed to offer support through a phone call. This is a **FREE** resource that can enable families to feel less alone. The card contains the name of the Regional Office Family Support Coordinator, who can be contacted to provide more information about this program.

Q: Where do I get it?

A: Contact the Family Support Coordinator at the Regional Office to obtain them.

Q: What do I do with it?

A: Discuss the opportunity to connect with someone who “has gone through it” with them. Share that the program has been well received by those who have participated.

- **Missouri Family to Family Resource Center / DD Regional Office / Release of Information and Referral Form**

Q: What is it?

A: The form that, once completed and faxed to the number at the bottom, will result in the family being contacted and offered emotional support, advice, and assistance in problem-solving.

Q: Where do I get it?

A: Download the form at <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/eastautismproject.htm>

Q: What do I do with it?

A: Assist the family in completing the referral if they want to participate and fax it to the number at the bottom. It will not take long and, upon returning to the office, it can easily be faxed to initiate a real service for families who are looking for connections as they navigate many avenues of assistance.